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Chairman:	Mr. KRENKEL	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.24)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.24)

1. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.24 on violence against women migrant workers, drew attention to some changes made by the sponsors to the draft text. The title should read "Violence against migrant women workers". In the first preambular paragraph, the first word should be changed from "Noting" to "Recalling", and, in the first line, the word "affirms" to "reaffirms". In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "some of" should be inserted after the words "workers by". In paragraph 3, the following phrase should be inserted between the words "measures" and "to provide": "to promote the safety of women subject to violence and". In paragraph 4, the phrase "relevant human rights bodies," should be inserted after "United Nations". In the same paragraph, the words "the problem" should be deleted and replaced by "violence against migrant women workers". Finally, the sponsors had agreed to reword paragraph 6 to read:

> "Requests the Secretary-General, in view of time constraints and pending the completion of a written report, to make a preliminary oral report, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

2. The following countries were added to the list of sponsors: Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Malaysia, Mexico and Uganda.

3. The draft resolution was prompted by the plight of women who, in ever greater numbers, were being compelled to leave their homes and families in search of gainful employment in the more affluent parts of the world, where they were doubly vulnerable to exploitation and mistreatment on account of their gender and foreign status. The draft resolution acknowledged that countries had the primary responsibility for endeavouring to provide employment to their citizens, and to ensure equal enjoyment of human rights, in accordance with the Charter. It denounced gender-based violence as a nullification of women's rights and fundamental freedoms. It was not intended to accuse anyone in particular, nor to address the issue of violence against women in general. It emphasized the importance of cooperative efforts by Member States of the United Nations in general, and by the sending and receiving countries in particular, in identifying shortcomings in their own systems which engendered violence against migrant women workers. The resolution should be seen as a small but positive step towards a more caring attitude towards others, which was the real foundation of peace.

(Mrs. Limjuco, Philippines)

4. She was grateful to the sponsors for agreeing to keep the draft resolution close to its original form and language in order to preserve its purely humanitarian thrust. For that reason no additions to the present list of sponsors could be accepted. In view of the humanitarian and urgent nature of the draft resolution, she hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471 and A/47/564)

5. Mrs. RAOELINA (Madagascar) said that, in the context of the increasingly critical consequences of drug abuse and trafficking, her delegation supported the overall approach of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) aimed at reducing both supply and demand. Further efforts must be made to reduce demand, which was a key factor in illicit trafficking. African drug-control authorities had requested UNIDCP to increase its funding of demand-reduction programmes in Africa, as part of the Global Programme of Action.

6. Aware of the need for shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem, Madagascar had become a party to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Her country had also adopted a number of drug-control measures with the assistance of UNIDCP and France. All imports of psychotropic substances from European countries had to be declared and reported. Madagascar had taken part in the regional training seminar for drug control administrators in Africa.

7. The lack of financial, material and human resources, inadequate coordination of activities and poor living standards among certain sectors of the population inhibited the implementation of an appropriate drug policy in many countries. Madagascar had accordingly requested UNIDCP assistance for preventive action, focused mainly on teacher training and the supply of equipment to strengthen existing infrastructure. Her delegation reaffirmed its support for the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in Africa. There continued to be substantial movements of illicit drugs through the region, and Africa was reported to be serving as a transit route between South America and Europe.

8. The cycle of production, trafficking and consumption called for concerted global action at the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental levels. UNIDCP was ideally placed to play the role of catalyst in international drug-control activities, and must be adequately funded, equipped and staffed. Her delegation supported the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for States to donate the confiscated assets of persons convicted of drug-related offences to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

9. Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that concerted international action was required to counteract the drug problem, which threatened security and stability world wide. While commending the work of UNIDCP, he said that it should continue assisting the developing countries, particularly those most affected by the drug problem, to develop anti-drug legislation in line with the relevant international treaties. It should also continue to provide technical assistance and training aimed at enhancing the skills of people working in the field of drug control and to advise on improving the mechanisms used for that purpose.

10. Education and the media had an important role to play in reducing the demand for drugs, as did prevention and rehabilitation. Reducing the drug supply was equally vital; the drug-producing countries should therefore devise crop- and income-substitution programmes. An effective control mechanism should also be implemented to prevent the diversion of chemical and narcotic substances intended for legitimate purposes. In addition, strict penalties should be enforced for drug traffickers, whose assets should be confiscated, while a rapid information-exchange facility would help to expedite the arrest and prosecution of offenders. The producer, transit and consumer countries should coordinate their efforts to achieve further progress, as well as introduce measures to eliminate money-laundering.

11. He affirmed the importance of complying with international treaties on drug control. Each State had a responsibility to combat trafficking but, in so doing, should abide by the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, particularly that of non-interference in internal affairs. His own country did not suffer the same drug problems as others: it was neither a producer nor a consumer, although it was sometimes used as a transit point owing to its geographical location. Libya had instituted measures to eliminate drug trafficking and abuse, such as introducing deterrent penalties, establishing numerous bodies and commissions to fight drugs, concluding bilateral agreements and exchanging information with international drug-control agencies. It would shortly ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, having already acceded to the other major international treaties on the subject, and was an active member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

12. Finally, he commended the role played by the various United Nations agencies in combating drugs and hoped that UNIDCP would receive the material and human resources it needed.

13. Mrs. GILES (Australia) said that UNIDCP must have the necessary authority and resources to carry out its mandate, which must continue to be one of the top priorities of the United Nations for the 1994-1995 biennium. Governments and non-governmental organizations were urged to use the Programme as a coordination facility to encourage complementarity and prevent duplication.

14. Turning to the relevant reports of the Secretary-General (A/47/378 and A/47/471), she said that Australia had signed the 1988 Convention, and had

(Mrs. Giles, Australia)

taken steps to give effect to most of its obligations under the Convention, especially those to ensure that drug traffickers could not escape justice and enjoy the proceeds of their criminal activities. Having now adopted federal, state and territory legislation and taken administrative action to ensure consistency with the Convention, especially through money-laundering and cash-transaction reporting legislation and extradition and mutual-assistance laws to combat organized crime, Australia would be dispatching its instrument of ratification for deposit in New York on 10 November. Her delegation urged countries that had not yet done so to ratify the 1988 Convention or at least adopt measures to assist in the development of a global system to combat illicit trafficking.

15. Noting that the question of the guiding principles in the fight against drugs was fully covered by various international instruments and General Assembly resolutions, she hoped that the issue would not be the subject of a further resolution, and that the focus would now be on reducing the harm caused by drug abuse, through the implementation of demand-reduction strategies.

16. Australia supported further examination of the economic and social consequences of illicit trafficking, but was concerned about the inadequacy of reliable data. It welcomed the pilot study covering 10 countries being undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University.

17. An important element of the enhanced United Nations role in international drug issues had been the strengthened policy-making role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Her delegation looked forward to the first round of consultations on the budget due to be held shortly.

18. Welcoming the examples of strengthened system-wide coordination reported in document A/47/471, her delegation favoured even closer cooperation between UNIDCP and the specialized agencies and other relevant programmes and bodies. It was clear from the greatly enhanced national, regional and international activity that the international community had responded to the leadership shown by the United Nations, and there was room for optimism that the call for enhanced international efforts was being translated into detailed policies and programmes.

19. Mr. ROSARIO (Cuba) said that UNIDCP should focus greater attention on effective measures to monitor the proceeds of illicit activities and prevent the diversion of chemical precursors. In general, the work of the Organization in the field of drug control should be considered in depth.

(Mr. Rosario, Cuba)

20. There was no drug addiction in Cuba and drugs were not produced or processed there. His Government had taken steps to prevent the transit of drugs to the United States through its territory and territorial waters. Cuba, which had signed a number of drug-control agreements with other countries in the region, reaffirmed its readiness to set up cooperation mechanisms with neighbouring countries.

21. While the drug scourge affected both rich and poor countries, it could not be divorced from the economic and social inequality in the world. The problem must be tackled with determination, on the basis of greater international cooperation, with specific measures aimed at promoting alternative development in producing countries. Development was the only reasonable option for putting an end to drug trafficking.

22. The policies and propaganda campaigns pursued by consuming countries were based on a distorted view of the real causes of the drug problem, according to which the people in the developing countries that produced drugs were bad, while the lifestyle that created the need to consume drugs was good. It was easier to call for a military solution than to provide the assistance needed to cope with the economic and social problems involved.

23. In combating drug trafficking, States must respect the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. The extraterritorial application of the laws of one country with regard to another was unacceptable and ran counter to the spirit of international cooperation to combat illicit drug trafficking. All States were responsible for preventing drug trafficking and none, regardless of its strength, could ignore its commitments.

24. Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan) said that all countries should become parties to the 1988 Convention in order to make it truly effective. Japan, which had ratified the Convention in June 1992, had strengthened its domestic anti-drug legislation. That would help greatly in combating drug trafficking and organized crime, both domestically and internationally. His Government welcomed the progress made in subregional cooperation. The UNIDCP regional centre for Asia was instrumental in promoting joint anti-narcotics programmes through the development of subregional activities and monitoring of the Programme's financial and technical assistance to South-East Asian countries.

25. Although UNIDCP was performing quite well, its budget was small, given the complexity and universality of drug problems. It was therefore time to review the Programme's activities and find a way to ensure the most effective use of its funds. Since supply-reduction projects could receive assistance from international financial institutions and relevant United Nations agencies, it was vital for UNIDCP to remain in contact with those organizations in order to obtain the necessary assistance.

26. Supply-reduction projects required strengthened law-enforcement programmes. In view of the increased drug abuse in producing countries and

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

the combination of drug problems and AIDS problems, the Programme should focus more on demand reduction.

27. The geographical distribution of the Programme's activities in the Asian region, where two of the world's major drug-producing areas were situated, was quite insufficient. The role of UNIDCP in the region was crucial. Although the activities carried out by the regional centre in Bangkok were successful, there was still much to be done. Lastly, UNIDCP had made a significant contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by reporting on the damage caused by drug production to the global environment.

28. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) said that the narcotic drug market was currently controlled by underworld organizations which more or less disdained production, focusing more on distribution and marketing. Western countries, despairing at their inability to cope with the problem domestically, were claiming they were victims and had placed responsibility almost entirely on producers. In fact, there had been no case in history where production continued when there was no demand, and the production of illicit drugs was dangerously on the rise, accompanied by increased addiction and alarming trends in HIV infection.

29. Despite accusations levelled by Western nations against other countries, drug money laundering was taking place in those same Western countries. That situation was comparable to Western nations' shifting the refugee burden to the poor developing nations in South-East Asia by obligating them to care for refugees, examplifying a double standard of behaviour where economic and political strength was used to deceive and blackmail others.

30. His delegation supported the work of UNIDCP and hoped that it would be provided with adequate resources. The war against drugs had to be aimed at reducing not only supply, but demand as well, and must include the treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts. Moreover, strong and effective legislation would have a deterrent effect on drug traffickers.

31. People in South-East Asia were not immune to the devastating effects of narcotic crop cultivation and illicit trafficking; subregional cooperation was vitally needed to fight the drug problem. Thailand and Myanmar had introduced a joint project to reduce opium cultivation and strengthen law-enforcement measures to neutralize drug trafficking in the border areas. Furthermore, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar had met to discuss cooperation in drug control.

32. While extending full cooperation in the matter of narcotic drugs Thailand affirmed unequivocally that the responsibility rested with the consuming countries, whose duty it was to reduce and, if possible, wipe out the market for drugs. For that purpose, a body similar to INTERPOL needed to be set up in order to deal with that world-wide problem. Such an approach would not be less intelligent, and would certainly be more humane, than deploying thousands of troops for the capture of one renegade general and thereby causing the loss of hundreds of innocent lives. Similarly, the use of military personnel and

(Mr. Khoman, Thailand)

equipment in Latin American producing countries was not likely to be effective, since the crux of the problem lay in the undiminished demand. Without the help of the United Nations and relevant organizations, efforts to combat drug abuse could not claim a measure of success.

33. Mr. SOH (Republic of Korea) said organized crime had played a dominant role in upscaling the drug problem from the national to the global level. The distinction between producing, consuming and transit States had been blurred by the formidable efficiency of the traffickers. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) had demonstrated its ability to act as a vanguard in the global fight against drug trafficking. However, more generous voluntary contributions were needed if UNIDCP was to accomplish the many tasks before it. The Republic of Korea would substantially raise its contribution for 1993. Higher priority should, however, be given to funding UNIDCP from the regular budget.

34. His delegation shared UNIDCP's concern regarding the financial disincentives which farmers faced when trying to replace illicit crops with others, and encouraged further collaboration between UNIDCP and the World Bank to seek alternative development options. UNIDCP also deserved credit for promoting demand reduction as well as supply reduction. Its close cooperation with WHO in implementing the Programme on Substance Abuse, which considered demand reduction a fundamental global strategy, was a step in the right direction. Education was a crucial component, and he hoped that it would be promoted in tandem with further emphasis on recreation and sporting activities for youth.

35. His delegation supported the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session, and in particular its decision to add ten more substances to tables I and II attached to the 1988 Convention. Although his delegation supported endeavours to deny illicit drug producers the essential inputs, it stressed that international control should not in any way impede free trade in chemicals for licit uses.

36. His Government had proposed the creation of a "Goodwill Ambassador" programme, similar to that implemented by UNICEF, as a step to increasing public awareness of the severity of the drug problem. The abrupt rise in the amount of confiscated drugs had been cause for concern in his country. His delegation shared the view that the 1988 Convention represented one of the primary foundations on which the international community should establish a coordinated front against drug trafficking. His Government would accede to the 1988 Convention as soon as the necessary adjustment had been made to harmonize domestic legislation. His delegation supported the General Assembly resolution 46/101, which reaffirmed that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking should continue to be based on strict respect for the principles of the Charter and international law. In recognition of the importance of regional and subregional arrangements in combating trafficking, his delegation would host the eighteenth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) for the Asia and Pacific region in October 1993.

37. Mr. AL-MOHAIRY (United Arab Emirates) said that international cooperation was vital to eliminating the social threat which drugs posed to the younger generation in particular. Accordingly, his delegation supported the efforts of UNIDCP. As part of the international community and in line with the teachings of Islam, which prohibited all forms of drug-related activities, his country had formed a national commission to combat drugs. It was also conducting a drug awareness campaign, implementing programmes for drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and providing ongoing training to improve the skills of people employed in the field of drug control. At the international level, it had become a party to the three major international treaties on drugs.

38. A comprehensive and coordinated strategy to combat the drug problem at local, regional and international levels was essential. Individual States also had a responsibility to introduce effective legislative, administrative and other preventive measures to contain the problem and eventually eliminate its damaging effects. Drug-producing countries, meanwhile, should implement measures such as crop-substitution programmes coupled with compensation to farmers. Moral and financial support from the international community was therefore essential if such measures were to be implemented in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/102, which was the only means of creating a safe and stable drug-free world.

39. Mr. Dekany (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

40. Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the countries of the South Pacific Forum, said that those countries were not isolated from the scourge of drugs. Since the region had been relatively neglected in terms of bilateral, regional and multilateral drug control activities, it was extremely vulnerable to the dangers of drug trafficking. With its great expanse of ocean and economically vulnerable small island States, the region was prey to traffickers, who used small island nations as staging posts in their operations.

41. The members of the South Pacific Forum were committed to cooperating, both regionally and internationally, to combat drug trafficking and prevent the Pacific islands from becoming integral parts of trafficking routes and money-laundering centres. The countries of the region were already working together closely in that regard. In July 1992, Forum leaders had expressed concern at the grave social consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse and had adopted a declaration on law enforcement cooperation, which identified priorities and established a framework for further cooperation. The Forum had recognized the need for legislative action to implement international initiatives and had agreed to accord priority to ratifying the 1988 Convention. The need to improve law-enforcement training and cooperate in order to counter terrorism had also been recognized.

42. More should be done internationally to ensure that the South Pacific was able to halt drug trafficking. The Forum welcomed the commitment of UNIDCP to

(Mr. Seniloli, Fiji)

the development of a subregional strategy and looked forward to the upcoming visit to the region by a UNIDCP mission to determine the extent of drug problems in the region and recommend measures for future assistance. The States members of the Forum would work closely with UNIDCP to develop further international cooperation to combat drug trafficking.

43. Mr. TSEPOV (Russian Federation) said that UNIDCP was making a unique contribution as a centre for coordinating international efforts in the fight against drug abuse. Those efforts should be consolidated so that that Programme could be effective. UNIDCP had already initiated a dialogue with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and was intending to establish cooperation with a number of regional development banks. The Programme's "debt-for-drugs" concept was another promising initiative.

44. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs could play an important role in implementing the Programme. Given the link between drug trafficking and transnational crime, it was clear that close cooperation was needed between that Commission and the Commissions on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The international community should keep abreast of the problems as they developed and adopt measures in a timely fashion. In that respect, his delegation commended the fact that 34 more States and the European Economic Community had become parties to the 1988 Convention. His country had joined the fight against drug abuse under the auspices of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe. He stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation in Asia, noting that his Government had participated in a recent meeting of experts held in Pakistan to discuss increasing cooperation in the fight against drug abuse in that region. Bilateral agreements between countries that shared mutual understanding and trust were an effective way to coordinate efforts. His delegation intended to pursue that type of dialogue with other interested States.

45. At the national level, each State had to deal a decisive blow against the "narcotic monster". His Government and society at large were preparing to take concerted action. A long-term national strategy in the areas of legislation, border control, public health and international cooperation was currently being worked out.

46. Mr. ALLAREY (Philippines) said that his delegation supported the introduction of a "drug dimension" in the work of the World Bank and UNIDCP's "debt-for-drugs" swap concept (A/47/471, paras. 8 and 9). It was also gratifying to note the various programmes carried out by ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO and WHO in the field of drug control. The Philippines also welcomed the World Bank's initiatives in focusing on the adverse economic and social consequences of the reduced production of narcotic raw materials and on alternative activities.

47. In the Philippines, the drug problem continued to pose major problems for the Government. Because of its easy availability, marijuana was still the

(Mr. Allarey, Philippines)

number-one choice of drug abusers. In the 1990s, hashish had re-emerged on the illicit market and was also clandestinely exported through foreign connections. The second drug of choice was methamphetamine hydrochloride, or "shabu" as it was called locally. That drug caused both psychological and physical dependency and its continued use led to criminal acts. The abuse of hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin in the Philippines was limited to the affluent.

48. Because of its strategic location, the Philippines was an important transit area, particularly for heroin exported from Thailand to Europe, the United States and Australia. His Government had declared total war against drug abuse and drug traffickers, pursuing a strategy based on supply and demand reduction and cooperation with other Governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

49. However, owing to its geographical situation as a vast archipelago, the Philippines encountered numerous problems in its drive against drug abuse and drug trafficking. The Philippine legislature was considering an omnibus dangerous-drug bill which would make it easier to prosecute and convict drug criminals.

50. The Philippines had done much work in the area of prevention. A new law included drug prevention and control in school curricula and focused on the adverse effects of drug abuse. In spite of the lack of drug rehabilitation centres, the Philippines had also achieved excellent results in rehabilitation. One centre had the lowest record of relapse in the world. It had devised a programme that aimed at inculcating discipline, and treatment was free of charge.

51. At the regional level, the Philippines continued to play an active role within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and had been instrumental in the adoption of the ASEAN multilateral agreement on extradition for drug offences. As a party to the drug conventions and the 1972 Protocol, the Philippines was committed to the global effort to eradicate the drug problem.

52. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) resumed the Chair.

53. Mr. EL-KHAZEN (Lebanon) underlined the damaging social consequences of drugs, the need for an international strategy and the crucial role of the United Nations. Notwithstanding the difficulties caused by its long civil war, Lebanon had spared no efforts in combating the legacy of drug production and trafficking in areas which had been largely beyond the control of the Lebanese authorities. In addition, it was an active member of UNIDCP. There was also firm cooperation between the Lebanese authorities and INTERPOL, to which they provided information on the current drug situation in Lebanon. Furthermore, the minimum penalty for both drug production and trafficking was to be increased under new laws being drafted.

(Mr. El-Khazen, Lebanon)

54. Foremost among the authorities' concerns in their efforts to regain control over Lebanon was the adoption of measures to combat drugs, which had become widespread during the absence of any central authority in the country. The first such measures, taken in 1991, were to destroy narcotic drug crops, ensure that the land was not re-cultivated for the same purposes and impose maximum penalties on drug traffickers. International authorities had also been consulted regarding substitute crops which would guarantee a legitimate income for farmers.

55. A UNIDCP mission to Lebanon in May 1992 had verified the crop destruction and confirmed the effectiveness of the measures introduced. It had praised the efforts made and recommended that farmers and the security agencies, which had the job of tracking down offenders, should immediately receive concrete assistance. Citing from the report of the mission, he said that opium and hashish production in Lebanon had been prevented during 1992, and saw no reason for any future changes in that situation.

56. In April 1992, a national commission had been formed to combat drug abuse and implement crop substitution programmes. In conjunction with UNIDCP and UNDP in Beirut, it was formulating a comprehensive anti-drug policy, both long-term and short-term. In October 1992, Lebanon and UNIDCP had arranged a meeting of experts from various international organizations to consider projects which could be undertaken by the country with a view to obtaining international assistance in its fight against drugs. The ensuing proposals had then been presented at the international conference on drugs held in Tehran later that month.

57. The foregoing facts were intended to set the record straight following the criticisms voiced at a recent meeting of the Third Committee by the Israeli delegation, which had neglected to state that Israel occupied a large part of Southern Lebanon, was the prime cause of the instability and insecurity in Lebanon, continued to prevent Lebanon from extending its authority to the southern part of the country, and, consequently, was largely responsible for the uncontrolled trafficking which took place in that region and which it had proved incapable of dealing with itself.

58. Moreover, the daily shelling and widespread displacement carried out by Israel made life so difficult for the region's inhabitants that they were forced to seek illegitimate means of earning a livelihood. Circumstances were therefore ripe for the drug cultivation and abuse which were the subject of complaint by the Israeli delegation. Lawfulness would return to the country and activities such as drug trafficking would be eliminated only when the Lebanese authorities once again exercised legitimate control over the whole of Lebanon.

59. In conclusion, he commended the international community and organizations for lending immediate support to the Lebanese Government in its efforts to extend its legitimate control over the country and to implement crop

(Mr. El-Khazen, Lebanon)

substitution programmes. Having pioneered the cultural and economic growth of the region, Lebanon was still capable of playing a positive and creative role, both regionally and internationally. To that end, however, the Government required assistance and support from the international community to enable it to strengthen its effectiveness throughout the country and to implement the socio-economic programmes which would rejuvenate the people and institutions of Lebanon.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.